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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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09/644,198

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Tamotsu Ito

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03/06/2009

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EXAMINER

BROWN, RUEBEN M

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2424

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

03/06/2009

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/644,198	Applicant(s) ITO ET AL.	
	Examiner REUBEN M. BROWN	Art Unit 2424	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 December 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 35-37 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 35-37 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 12/2008 has been entered.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims regarding Aotake have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection. It is noted that Scaer teaches that the technique of selecting an object by hovering, instead of clicking the instant object is preferable, col. 2, lines 40-45 The reference is applicable to the combination of Takahashi & Duhault, because it solves the same problem, of the user being required to click his/her mouse for each selection of a desired object.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1 & 35-37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takahashi, (U.S. Pat # 6,483,983), in view of Duhault, (U.S. Pat # 5,900,868) and Scaer, (U.S. Pat # 6,101,498).

Considering amended claims 1 & 36, Takahashi teaches an apparatus (Fig. 1) that enables a user to access a plurality of programs. The amended claimed features of the content including a plurality of titles that includes a plurality of chapters, each chapter including a plurality of frames, the titles and chapters include moving pictures, is met by the disclosure of Takahashi (Fig. 3; col. 5, lines 21-40; col. 6, lines 20-40; col. 9, lines 31-40).

‘driver module configured to access the content and having a driver output to produce an information signal for the accessed content’ and *‘a decoder module operatively coupled to the driver module to receive information signal’*, reads on the driver unit 1 and decoder unit 3, (Fig. 1; col. 3, lines 62-67 thru col. 4, lines 1-37).

'user input module configured to receive user input with at least a select button and/or cursor button', reads on the user interface 11, col. 4, lines 56-67.

The amended claimed, *'system control module configured to control, the driver and decoder modules to produce as first display for a plurality of titles, each titles being represented by single frames in the first display signal, at least the single frames for the plurality of programs are configured to be displayed on a display module as a title selection screen'*, Takahashi shows in Fig. 3 that a plurality of titles are available for selection by the user (as tag 18). The claimed title selection screen, is broad enough to read on the titles (1-3) being displayed on Fig. 3.

As for the additionally claimed feature, *'wherein the single frames are selected from any part of the moving picture'*, Takahashi only shows a tab with a number representing the title. Nevertheless Duhault, which is in the same field of endeavor, (i.e., enabling a user to interactively select an item from among a plurality of items), teaches that a plurality of programs may be displayed on the screen as thumbnails, Fig. 2. In particular, in a Browser screen, i.e., display area 50, the thumbnail images 54,56,58,60, etc. represent programs (i.e., titles) that may be selected. Each program is identified by its visual representation 51 (col. 3, lines 32-45) which is an image sampled from the broadcast, and thus reads on the claimed subject matter. Duhault goes onto teach that the visual representation 51 will be periodically updated, col. 3, lines 50-53. It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, to modify Takahashi with the feature of utilizing an image to represent a title or file name,

for the advantage of allowing the user to visually confirm or identify the content of the file/program, as shown by Duhault (Fig. 2).

‘wherein the system control module, in response to receiving a user-specified title selection from the select button is configured to control the decoder module to produce a second display signal from the plurality of chapters, each of the chapters being represented by a single frame, at least the single frames for the plurality of chapters are configured to be displayed on a display module as a chapter selection screen’, also is broad enough to read on the disclosure of Takahashi, (Fig. 3; col. 5, lines 21-49). Takahashi teaches that the chapters are represented by the still images (frames) shown in boxes 19a-19i.

‘wherein the system control module, in response to receiving a user specified title selection from the cursor button, is configured to control the decoder module to play back automatically user-specified title as a small frame if there is no button input for a select period of time’, Takahashi, (col. 7, lines 65-67 thru col. 8, lines 1-2; col. 11, lines 25-67; col. 12, lines 32-63), discloses that after a user selects a chapter with the cursor button 27, that the associated moving picture may be displayed for a duration of time, col. 7, lines 25-37. Furthermore Duhault teaches that when a preview is mode is detected, the video program is played in the thumbnail area (col. 5, lines 40-50, Fig. 5 step 148), which reads on the claimed *‘playback...as a small frame’*.

However, the references do not explicitly discuss a delay time when waiting for another user input before starting playback of the moving picture in the small frame. Nevertheless, Scaer, which is also in the same field of endeavor of interactive selection, teaches a system that allows a user to make a selection of an object by merely hovering the cursor of the mouse over the instant object for a predetermined time, (col. 5, lines 45-58). It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, to modify the combination of Takahashi & Duhault with the feature of selecting an object on a screen by allowing the user to hover the mouse cursor over the object, instead of having to click the instant desired object, as taught by Scaer (col. 2, lines 40-45) which at least reduces the amount of clicking required by user of the system.

As for the further claimed feature, *'wherein the automatic playback start position of the user-specified title is part of the moving picture indicated by the single frame'*, Takahashi teaches that moving pictures is played from the start picture of the chapter, col. 6, lines 34-51; col. 7, lines 25-50.

As for the further amended claimed feature, that the system stops playback of the title after the playback ends, Duhault teaches that when the preview portion is complete, then the video ends, see col. 5, lines 45-62.

Regarding claim 36, the claimed elements of an apparatus for accessing content on a storage medium that correspond with subject matter mentioned above in the rejection of claim 1,

is likewise treated. Furthermore, claim 36 recites '*program*', which corresponds with the claimed '*title*' of claim 1. Also claim 36 recites, '*plurality of scenes*', which likewise corresponds with claimed chapters of claim 1.

Considering claims 35 & 37, Official Notice is taken that at the time the invention was made, 'skipping' and 'fast forward playback', similar to a VCR, was old in the art. It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, to modify Takahashi/Duhault with the feature of fast forward or skipping, at least for benefit of allowing the user to go to the section of the movie that he/she most desires to view, at a particular time.

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- A) Ikeda Teaches playback of video programming in a small screen.
- B) Mernyk Teaches selection of a folder, by touching a cursor, instead of a mouse click, see Abstract.
- C) Daniels Teaches activation of a help function when a cursor is hovered over an item.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

or faxed to:

(571) 273-8300, (for formal communications intended for entry)

Or:

(571) 273-7290 (for informal or draft communications, please label
"PROPOSED" or "DRAFT")

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Reuben M. Brown whose telephone number is (571) 272-7290. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F(8:30-6:00), First Friday off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Christopher Kelley can be reached on (571) 272-7331. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300 for regular communications and After Final communications.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Reuben M. Brown/

Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2424